(c) and (d) No, Sir. The cost of production of unclear power is comparable to thermal generation away from coalmines. The hydropower in the country is location specific and mostly for peak load needs.

(e) and (f) Nuclear power reactors are being operated at high availability factors as to yield about normative capacity factor.

(g) Reducing the input costs, adopting depreciation rates consistent with expected life of the plants, discontinuation of Renovation and Modernisation and Research and Development levies and pre payment of high interest bearing loans have resulted in reduction of the cost of production of nuclear power. The average generation traiff has come down from 255 paise/kWh in the year 2003-04 to 226 palse/kWh in the year 2004-05.

Outcome of the Meeting of I.A.E.A.

408. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that allowing inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will seriously compromise the quantity and scope of ongoing research;

(b) if so, whether Government have put forward this point during the recently held meeting of IAEA; and

(c) if so, the response received in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. No IAEA inspections are being carried out in any of the R&D institutions in India.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Russian Uranium for Tarapur Plant

409. SHRI YASHWANT SINHA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Russia has agreed to supply low enriched uranium for the atomic power plant at Tarapur; and

(b) if so, by when are they likely to do so?